

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL
OF COPIES OF TRANSLATION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY
(CHAPTER I OR CHAPTER II
OF THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY)
(PCT Rule 72.2)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)
25 August 2005 (25.08.2005)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
03PCFP909

International application No.
PCT/JP2003/015370

Applicant
NEC CORPORATION et al

To:

KUDOH, Minoru
Kadoya Building 6F
24-10, Minamiooi 6-chome
Shinagawa-ku
Tokyo 140-0013
JAPON

**IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION**

International filing date (day/month/year)
02 December 2003 (02.12.2003)

1. Transmittal of the translation to the applicant.

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation made by the International Bureau of the international preliminary examination report established by the International Preliminary Examining Authority.

2. Transmittal of the copy of the translation to the elected Offices.

The International Bureau notifies the applicant that copies of that translation have been transmitted to the following elected Offices requiring such translation:

CN, EP

The following elected Offices, having waived the requirement for such a transmittal at this time, will receive copies of that translation from the International Bureau only upon their request:

US

3. Reminder regarding translation into (one of) the official language(s) of the elected Office(s).

The applicant is reminded that, where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report.

It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned (Rule 74.1). See Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide for further details.

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

Masashi Honda

Facsimile No.+41 22 740 14 35

Facsimile No.+41 22 338 70 10

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 03PCFP909	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/JP2003/015370	International filing date (day/month/year) 02 December 2003 (02.12.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 02 December 2002 (02.12.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G06T 7/00		
Applicant NEC CORPORATION		

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.</p>
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 02 December 2003 (02.12.2003)	Date of completion of this report 02 June 2004 (02.06.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the drawings:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. _____ the drawings, sheets/fig _____5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>5-8, 15-18, 21</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>1-4, 9-14, 19, 20</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	<u>1-21</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-21</u>	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: EP 1195692 A1 (Sharp Kabushiki Kaisha), 10 April 2002, & WO 01/03005 A1

Document 2: JP 6-68163 A (Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp.), 11 March 1994, paragraphs [0026] - [0037] (Family: none)

Document 3: US 2002-0169761 A1 (Fujitsu Ltd.), 14 November 2002, paragraphs [0059], [0067], & GB 2375629 A, & JP 2002-342374 A

Document 4: US 5805746 A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 8 September 1998, column 6, line 51 to column 7, line 10, & JP 7-114567 A

The inventions described in claims 1 to 4, 9 to 14, 19, and 20 lack novelty and do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 cited in the international search report. Document 1 (paragraphs [0002] to [0037], for example) discloses an animated image search device that performs animated image searches based on scene search information, which is generated for each individual animated image scene as an average value of the search information for individual frame units within each individual scene, characterized in that spatial features, namely, layout feature amounts, inside individual frames obtained by subdividing each frame into smaller sectors,

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are used as the aforementioned search information for individual frame units.

The inventions described in claims 5 and 15 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 and document 2 cited in the international search report.

Document 2 (paragraph [0029]) discloses the use of average value, mode, median, and the like when calculating a representative value for each individual shot of an animated image from the physical amounts for each frame that comprises each individual shot of the animated image, and because the inventions disclosed in document 1 and document 2 belong to closely related technical fields in that both have a feature wherein feature amounts of an animated image are calculated for the purpose of performing a search of the animated image, in the light of the above disclosures in document 2, a person skilled in the art could easily conceive of adapting the invention disclosed in document 1 so that scene search information is generated as the median value of search information for each individual frame unit.

The inventions described in claims 6, 7, 16, and 17 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 and document 3 cited in the international search report. Document 3 (paragraphs [0059] and [0067]) discloses the use of color information and edge histogram information as feature amounts of an image, and because the inventions disclosed in document 1 and document 3 belong to closely related technical fields in that both have a feature wherein feature amounts of an animated image are calculated for the purpose of performing a search of the animated image, in the light of the above disclosures in document 3, a person skilled in the art could easily conceive of adapting the invention disclosed in document 1

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so that search information for each individual frame unit is generated from color information or edge histogram information.

The inventions described in claims 8, 18, and 21 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 and document 4 cited in the international search report. Document 4 (column 6, line 51 to column 7, line 10) discloses a feature wherein a search is performed by calculating a feature vector of a video based on a feature amount(s) selected by a user, and because the inventions disclosed in document 1 and document 4 belong to closely related technical fields in that both have a feature wherein feature amounts of an animated image are calculated for the purpose of performing a search of the animated image, in the light of the above disclosures in document 4, a person skilled in the art could easily conceive of adapting the invention disclosed in document 1 so that the feature amount(s) used to generate scene search information and the calculation method therefor are selected by a user.